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HOLLYWOOD? No, STA TV AND BROADCAST JOURNALISM

BY: MADISON BREW

Broadcast journalism is offered as an elective for sophomores, juniors and seniors in addition to creative filmmaking. Both of these classes are run by Vincenzo Dama. Dama has the class separated into teams that are assigned different tasks to complete the news casts. The four team colors are red, yellow, blue and purple. The teams must work together in order to make successful school broadcasts. Team red consists



WILLIAM THOMAS AND THOMAS SCHWEGLER RECORD INTERVIEWS AT THE HOMECOMING DANCE

of the anchors, the students that report school events. Teams blue and yellow are the students responsible for recording school events with the variety of equipment. Team purple edits the broadcasts after recording. Junior Brandon Gafanhao was asked what his favorite part of being in the class is. He responded: "My favorite part of video production is probably interviewing others and seeing their reactions or perspectives."

Video production is a part of the schools fine arts program, which has been thriving since its inception. An additional class and club have been added to show students how some of their favorite films are created. Students are taught team work, public speaking, computer skills, and use the opportunity to express their ideas with each other. The classes and club spotlight all of the major and minor school events. Their finished broadcasts are usually shown at the end of each quarter or after a week of events as a recap. News casts are aired in every homeroom. The most recent newscast included Catholic Schools Week Events, the Blood Drive, the Heart Heros Volleyball Tournament covered by se-

nior Viviana Rodriguez, Teacher Swap, Battle of the Classes (Tournament of Champions) and the annual Polar Plunge fundraiser covered by senior Sylvia Nicole Rivera.

This class has grown in popularity within the past year or two. The school loves having students involved and excited about school events and the recording everything for posterity. The teams change every quarter as is evident when different anchors are featured in each quarter's recaps. The class is an amazing gateway for students that are interested in broadcasting and film making.

A lot more goes on behind the scenes. Students have to brainstorm, write, and edit ideas for new and future broadcasts. The school enjoys their quarterly newscasts and videos such as short films released through STA TV and the school's YouTube channel. The class is a great addition to the fine arts program with 3 film classes offered: Creative Film Making, Broadcast Journalism I and Broadcast Journalism II. The classes are counted as a year of fine arts (required to graduate). The hope is to see these film students bring something great

into the film industry in the future. As the class begins to grow the school can expect new and interesting ideas to combine with the schools social medias and promotional videos. The class is available to all sophomores, juniors, and seniors who need electives.

The students seem to really enjoy the class and put a lot of effort into these projects.. When asked why he chose to take broadcast journalism junior William Thomas said: "I wanted to try something new and see if it could be a future career path for me" The school is extremely proud of and excited for whats to come for these students and the rest of the year!



BROADCAST MEMBERS PREPARE TO INTERVIEW FELLOW STUDENTS AT THE HOMECOMING GAME

THE WOMAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN

BY: GRACE MANDY

The staff took some time to ask senior stage manager Sara Saglimbeni to share what it is like to work behind the scenes of a drama department production.

Q: What is a day in the life like for a stage manager?

A: After school, I head to the Little Theatre and begin preparing for the day's rehearsal. I'll begin by taking attendance to make sure that everyone needed is present. Then I'll do a quick sweep of the stage to make sure that everything is clean and ready for rehearsal. After that I'll get set up with things like my script and the rehearsal tracks so we can begin to work.

Q: What is your method of organization?

A: Since the script for a show is usually split up into two parts, I find it easiest to keep stage directions

and blocking in the front half of the script where the lines are. I typically write down time stamps for song tracks in the vocals section of the script. That way, depending on what we are working on, I can flip to the respective part of the script.

Q: How did you come to be a stage manager?

A: It was something that I would have literally never expected. I worked on backstage crew for shows during the 2022-2023 school year. At the end of the year, I decided I wanted to work as the Assistant Stage Manager for the next production, *Macbeth*. Then, for both *Sweeney Todd* and *Footloose*, I got the opportunity to work as the Stage Manager which I gladly accepted.

Q: What was the most nerve-racking backstage experience during a show?

A: During Act I of *Sweeney Todd* before the final scene change of the

act, I had to bring out a table with a bunch of baking things on it during the blackout. As I was carrying it out, the meat cleaver that was on the table fell off. I had absolutely no idea this happened until I was walking back and saw it on the floor where I had walked out. This prop was a pretty important part of the scene that was about to happen, so I realized that something had to be done. After a little bit of panicking and telling the adults backstage about it, we eventually figured it out and the problem was solved smoothly.

Q: What is your biggest pet peeve concerning actors?

A: Definitely when they run right into curtains and aren't light on their feet backstage. I feel like they get reminded of these things so often but they end up forgetting before the next rehearsal happens.

Q: What is the most rewarding part of being a stage manager?

A: I love seeing how the show is built from the ground up. It always amazes me how we begin with nothing and create the end product of a finished show. In every aspect, from building the set, adding in technical elements, and learning choreography and lines, I truly believe all the work that all of the involved students put in is so impressive. All of the hard work and long days are so rewarding and it really does pay off.



SARA SAGLIMBENI PREPARES TO CLOSE THE CURTAIN ON CUE WITH THE MUSIC. (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF STA PUBLICATIONS)

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ARE THERE EXTRATERRESTRIAL BEINGS IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM?

BY: OLIVIA LOCANDRO

Countless pieces of media present one universal question: are aliens real? Whether referencing timeless classics like *E.T.*, *Men in Black*, or even *Alien*, it's obvious that the cinematic world, as well as society, is infatuated with the idea of an existence of life beyond the planet Earth.

This frenzy first broke out into the mainstream with *The War of Worlds*, a short story written about martians invading Earth to look for more resources. The story was performed on the radio one night, but not all listeners tuning in were aware that this was merely a work of fiction, infamously leading to an accidental occurrence of misinformation that caused many to believe the Earth was actually being invaded by martians. Although we'd be aware of any potential aliens residing on nearby planets such as Mercury and Mars with our current scientific knowledge, it doesn't re-

move the fact that we know so little about the observable universe. In fact, when it comes to planets near us, we have found evidence that supports the past existence of life!

A meteorite found in Antarctica showed organic compounds that could have been the waste products of bacteria, as well as compounds that are rarely naturally found. There appears to be what was interpreted as fossilized bacteria in the meteorite that could have once lived and thrived on Mars. As a planet known for its past existence of water on the surface, as well as an environment that was once easily viable for life, it isn't a wild jump to assume that such circumstances could allow life to thrive on another planet in a different solar system.

However, one common rebuttal when it comes to the existence of extraterrestrial life is the question "If aliens are real, why haven't they

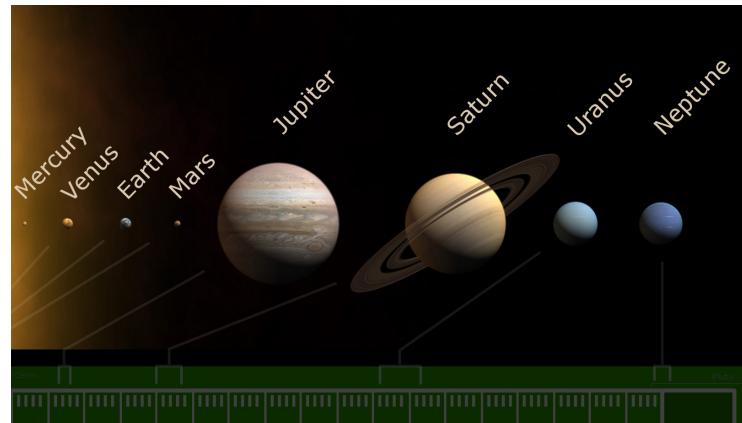
contacted us yet?" Officially named the Fermi paradox, this idea has perplexed countless alien enthusiasts due to a lack of a scientific response. However, not all hope is lost for those who are hopeful for or believe in friends from different planets. Humans remain forever hopeful, which was evident with the launching of The Golden Record into space in 1977. This record carries different aspects of human life and Earth, such as animal sounds, music from all cultures, 55 different languages saying hello, and clear visual directions displaying how to play the record using the enclosed stylus. This heartfelt greeting to potential life in the universe hopes to detail to others what life is like on Earth, and welcomes all who may find it.

Despite our lack of interactions with tangible aliens, members of the human race hold onto optimistic hope of finding extraterrestrial life.

WHICH PLANET IS THE MOST 'STELLAR'?

BY: CAITHLYN CABALLERO

Over 4 billion years ago, interstellar gas and dust formed into a dense cloud, only to suddenly collapse. This supernova left the dust and gases spinning and swirling into a solar nebula. As gravity pulled more of these materials to the center, our Sun was born, along with all the planets, dwarf planets, and moons around the outer disk. The creation of our solar system was a cosmic miracle! However, one may wonder which planet is the best of all. After my incredibly scientific evaluation, it'll be clear which planet is out of this world! I will rank the planets based on name, appearance/surface, and unique features. With that in mind, coming in cold for last place is Uranus. This ice giant uniquely rotates completely on its side, but the only other notable thing is that no one knows how to pronounce its name. In seventh place is the tiniest planet, Mercury. This hot and cold planet is adorned with many impact craters. Neptune is the cooler version of Uranus, with stronger winds and a mysterious component that makes its atmosphere so vividly blue. In fifth place is the rover-explored Mars. Mars is pretty overrated, considering it can't even harbor life, but its dusty red color and possible signs of pre-



ALL OF THE PLANETS IN ORDER FROM CLOSEST TO THE SUN TO FARTHEST FROM THE SUN.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

vious life are kind of cool. In fourth place is the planet of love, Venus. Despite being known for love, the planet is rather violent with its thick atmosphere and volcanoes, making it the hottest planet. Starting off the top three is Jupiter. It is best known for being the largest planet with its Giant Red Spot. The spot itself is a giant storm that is even bigger than Earth. Its enormous size and being home to the largest moon earns Jupiter its well-deserved bronze. Our runner-up is Saturn. Although other gas giants have rings, Saturn's are the most visible and complex! Saturn

also has the most moons in the Solar System, some of which have the potential to support life. Saturn's iconic rings and hexagonal cloud patterns arguably make it the most recognizable planet. As you've probably guessed, Earth is number one. It may seem cliché, but you can't beat being home to all known life in the solar system. Earth is the only planet with liquid water on its surface and has the most beautiful landscapes. Even though our home planet may not be perfect, its diverse surface and the amazing people who inhabit it make it the best!

HOLY SPIRIT MEETS SCHOOL SPIRIT

BY: LIAM LUGAY,
SAVANNAH MCGUIRE,
& MADISON PACCIANO

On January 31, 2024, the school came together to kick off Catholic Schools Week with the celebration of the annual Catholic Schools Week Mass. Father Keith Cervine and Father Mike Tabernero concelebrated the Mass in the Main Gym. This was the big event of the week, falling right before the fun-filled events of Teacher Swap Day and the Tournament of Champions. It was a celebration of the spirit within the Catholic high school community, but also a deep reflection on what it means to answer the call from God.

The Gospel reading present in the Mass came from the Gospel of Matthew 23:7-16. In this reading, Jesus addresses a crowd, saying that people should not claim themselves to be teachers or masters over anyone in their earthly life. Instead, they should consider each other brothers and sisters. God is the ultimate teacher and master to be served in Heaven. Jesus says that those who lower themselves will be rewarded with eternal life in Heaven.

The reading was followed up by a homily from Father Mike, discussing the life of St. Thomas Aquinas. The saint's dedication to God and dismissal of physical possessions and vanity were some of the focal points. The homily was concluded with Father Mike stating that Catholics are called to do much of the same that Aquinas did in his lifetime. The mural of Saint Thomas Aquinas that adorns the Main Gym wall was then blessed by Father Keith.

To wrap up the event, the service award ceremony was held. This



FATHER KEYES (LEFT), FATHER MIKE (CENTER), AND FATHER KEITH (RIGHT) CONSECRATE THE WINE.

ceremony honored students in each grade who had obtained the most service hours in their respective years. The second half of the ceremony represented faculty and staff members who had achieved milestones in their tenure at the high school. The Catholic Schools Week Mass was a celebration of everything that makes being a part of this community special. The Mass was a joyous way to start off Catholic Schools Week.

Teacher swap day was the next event during Catholic Schools Week. On this day students had the opportunity to dress up as their favorite teachers and spend the entire day as them, taking charge and teaching classes. While the students teach, the teachers become students, sitting back and learning with the class.

The students who swap with teachers are typically seniors, however there were a handful of juniors who participated as well this year. The swapped teachers had the ability to choose what kind of fun they wanted to bring to the class. Usually, the students will either make a fun trivia game about their teacher and play it with the class or the students will completely embody their teacher and teach a lesson, highlighting the mannerisms, personality, and

traits of the teacher.

Some notable swaps included Nicholas Tonzola III and Jack Joyce who teamed up to take over Mr. Tonzolas physics classes. Misha Hercules, Sean Lacko, and Jasmine Torres jumped at the opportunity to dress up as Ms. Byrne for the day. Liam Lugay and Lukas Pereira, went all out when it came to swapping with Italian teacher Ms. Marucci.

To wrap up Catholic Schools Week students participated in the Tournament of Champions. This event takes place every year during Catholic Schools Week, and lasts the entire day. Each class was assigned a specific color to wear. Seniors wore blue, juniors wore green, sophomores wore red and freshmen wore yellow. Students were creative with their colors. Some of the girls wore tutus in their classes colors, while other students decided to dress as characters. Nicholas Basilico dressed up as Cookie Monster from Elmo's World and freshman class advisor Ms. Byrne dressed as Joy from the movie "Inside Out."

The games began with the classes being split. Seniors competed against the juniors and the sophomores against the freshman. The games played were Minute-to-Win-

It, speedball, volleyball, relay races and basketball. Minute-to-win-it consisted of multiple challenges, where one student from each grade went head to head to compete. They only had a minute to complete the task. Some of the activities consisted of students being rolled into mummies using toilet paper, pulling all the tissues out of a tissue box with a hand behind their back, or trying to get an oreo off their face using only their facial expressions. With this activity, the freshmen won. In the senior vs. junior games, seniors won all but one contest, making it a victory for seniors.

Speedball was highly competitive between all grades, some students even lost their shoes trying to win. During one of the final games, Coach Zonkowski and Mr. Bianchini joined in on opposing sides. Mr. Bianchini was out within the first few minutes, with Coach Zonkowski being taken out by Anwar Witherpoon, who held that game and won it for the sophomores. The juniors had a surprising victory against the seniors, when everyone anticipated the seniors to win speedball.

For basketball, juniors dominated against the seniors. The freshmen pulled through, beating the sophomores. The next event was tug of war, which was divided between girls and boys for the first bit. Later on in the event, coed games were held. Seniors took down the juniors, while the sophomores beat the freshmen.

Overall, seniors won, followed by sophomores in second, freshmen third, and juniors last. Catholic Schools Week was a success and highly enjoyable for everyone, full of fun events that brought the community together.



NICK BASILICO AND FRANCESCA COREA SWAP WITH MR. FIORE AND MR. ZIEGLER (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF STA PUBLICATIONS)



SENIORS COMPETING IN TUG-OF-WAR AGAINST THE JUNIORS MR.DAMA IN THE BACK DRESSED AS SADNESS FROM INSIDE OUT

FACE THE FREEZE

BY: SIDNEY REIMAN

On Sunday, February 4, dozens of students, parents, and teachers flocked to Sea Bright for the annual Polar Plunge. Whether by taking the bus or driving, students met at the beach at 11:30 to enjoy hot chocolate, donuts, and other snacks before diving in. Students explored the beach and signed in, preparing to face the freeze at 1 o'clock. Even with an air temperature of 44 degrees, the water temperature was 39 degrees. Hundreds of people faced the freeze and plunged into the water.

The event is sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish Catholic fraternal organization. The event was coordinated by Deborah Chippendale, Director of Alumni and Development.

Chippendale worked extremely hard to generate enthusiasm and excitement for the event. Leading up to the event, there were ice cream eating contests held during pep ral-

lies, and students were even allowed to dunk several teachers with cold water if a certain monetary goal was reached!

Over \$41,000 was raised in support of the school. The money was donated by students, teachers, faculty, and alumni. The senior class raised the highest amount of money, and will be rewarded with an ice cream party. The freshmen had the highest participation, and they will be rewarded with a pizza party. Individual awards will go to one student from each grade who raised the most money, and the top three teachers.

Freshman Samantha Shaughnessy and sophomore Gianna Kuntar will each be rewarded with a \$100 gift card. Junior Madison Brew and senior Caroline Devlin will be rewarded with two prom tickets each.

The teacher coming in top place was Mrs. Veni. She raised the most amount of money amongst the faculty, and will be awarded a 2 night stay in Atlantic City, a \$100 gift card, and an extra personal day. Veni was fol-



PLUNGERS RUN BACK TO SHORE AFTER BRAVING THE COLD WATER. (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF STA PUBLICATIONS)

lowed by Mr. Ziegler in second and Mr. Tocci in third. All three hard-working faculty members will additionally receive preferred parking for the 2024-2025 school year.

Across the board, the 2024 Polar Plunge was considered an extremely successful event and an enjoyable day by all.

HEROES PLAY THEIR HEART OUT

BY:

ELIZABETH BERA

On January 31st, the school community came together for the Heart Heroes Volleyball Game! It was organized and run by Father Mike and senior Olivia Alicante. "I had the pleasure of running the event with Father Mike. This was my second year running the event and I had so much fun being able to make the brackets, raise money for charity, and get the whole school involved in a fun event," said Alicante. After weeks of planning and putting teams together, participants were ready to show off their volleyball skills!

The tournament featured multiple teams that competed head to head for victory. Students, teachers, and staff got creative when it came to team names, costumes, and strategies. These teams included The Stallions (Captain: Zach Diaz), The STEM Techs (Captains: Sandra Abrantes and Victoria Aldridge), the Boom Squad (Captain: Seth



MR. MERRIMAN-MENDEZ ON TEAM MISSION UNBLOCKABLE (LEFT SIDE OF NET), JUMPS TO VOLLEY THE BALL BACK TO THE STEM TECHS TEAM (RIGHT SIDE OF NET)

McGhee), The Aces (Captain: Sophia DeVera), Mission Unblockable (Captain: Mr. Merriman-Mendez), Willard's Boys (Captain: Sean Lacko), Team Ogre (Captain: Thomas Schwegler), LANK (Captain: Louie Scaff), and Teachers Elite! (Captain: Mr. Brady), but only one could come out on top. Students and teachers were also given the chance to attempt a half court shot. After many attempts, the crowd roared when the shot was

successfully made!

In the final bracket, Mission Unblockable (Merriman, Fr. Mike, Coach Z, Mr. Gronske, Ms. Menafo, Mr. Herbert, and Mr. Biancchini) competed against The Stallions (Zach Diaz, David Ryden, Vincent Gioffre, Elijah Abass-Sher-eef, Jack Joyce, Samuel Villanueva, and Kayla Foley). The scores went back and forth: the teachers in the lead, then the students in the lead. In a tight game, the teachers

came out on top. Mission Unblockable was victorious!

It was great to see a school tradition continue through such wonderful and giving students, faculty and staff. Heart disease can affect anyone, and it is important for schools and communities to do their part in raising awareness and support. All of the proceeds raised went to the American Heart Association. Every team donation, ticket costs, and concessions were donated.

New take on 'Mean Girls' classic



THE 'MEAN GIRLS' ARE READY FOR A NEW GENERATION.

(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

BY: MISHA HERCULES

"Mean Girls" (2024) is a film directed by Arturo Perez Jr. and released on January 12. This movie takes a new modern approach to

the classic Mean Girls (2004) as it is based on the Broadway version of the original film. The movie stars

Reneé Rapp as Regina George, Angourie Rice as Cady Heron, Avantika Vandanapu as Karen Shetty, Bebe Wood as Gretchen

Wieners, and Christopher Briney as Aaron Samuels. This is an exciting, upbeat movie musical that tells the classic story of a new student, Cady Heron, who has recently transferred from South Africa as she navigates the traditional American high school experience. She is quickly welcomed by two students Janis Sarkisian played by Auli'i Cravalho and Damian Hubbard played by Jaquel Spivey who devise a revenge plan against Regina George. Cady is then initiated into a group of the school's most elite three girls known as The Plastics: Regina, Gretchen, and Karen. All goes well until Cady breaks Regina's biggest rule: getting with Regina's ex-boyfriend, Aaron. This turns Regina and Cady into enemies.

Although the movie was fun, there were many obvious product placements that felt forced. I think it would have been better if the product placements were less noticeable and not as much as a moment because they took up time and did

not serve any relevance to the plot or scenes. The outfits also did not scream "mean girls" as they were more trendy and did not fit with the characters' personalities, aesthetics and styles. The outfits should have been bigger statement pieces, especially because "Mean Girls" (2024) is notorious for its iconic fashion and has been referenced many times in fashion.

The songs throughout the movie were very good and engaging. They introduced a fun, pop, upbeat tempo to the movie unlike they were in the Broadway musical. The relationships between the characters throughout the movie were written well and captured the essence of the original movie. I love how the movie aged with the times, evolving and becoming more modern in different aspects such as removing and changing lines from jokes that were controversial in the original movie. Overall, it was a fun new addition to the franchise.

Recap of the 2024 Grammys

BY: MADISON CLARKE

The 66th annual Grammy Awards aired live on February 4th, 2024 at the Crypto Live Arena in Los Angeles, California and were hosted by Trevor Noah.

The main Grammy categories are Album of the Year, Record of the Year, Song of the Year, and Best New Artist. Three new categories were also added for the show: Best African Music Performance, Best Alternative Jazz Album, and Best Pop Dance Recording. These categories open up recognition for not only performance but also for albums and recordings within defined genres and sub-genres. According to Recording Academy CEO, Harvey Mason, the categories represent an effort to make the Grammys "more fair, transparent, and accurate."

The show kicked off at 8:00pm EST with Dua Lipa performing her three singles, "Dance the Night Away," "Training Season," and "Houdini." Lipa was nominated for Best Song Written for Visual Media and Song of the Year, both for "Dance the Night" from the movie Barbie. There were many

other iconic performances, like Joni Mitchell performing for the first time in 20 years. In addition, Tracey Chapman and Luke Combs performed her timeless 80s classic, "Fast Car," with the excitement and energy of the previous rock era. The most-awarded artist of the night was Phoebe Bridgers, an indie-rock guitarist who won 4 Grammys prior to the ceremony through her supergroup *Boygenius*. Bridgers, along with fellow *Boygenius* members Lucy Dacus and Julien Baker, won Best Alternative Music Album. She also won Best Pop Duo/Group Performance with SZA, for "Ghost in the Machine." Notably, SZA attained 9 nominations, of which she received 3 Grammys all for her critically acclaimed album "SOS." Victoria Monét was awarded Best New Artist. Miley Cyrus was awarded Record Of The Year and Best Pop Solo Performance for her hit "Flowers." Billie Eilish took home Song of the Year for "What Was I Made For?" while Killa Mike took home Rap Album of the Year for his album "Michael." Furthermore, Taylor Swift made Grammys history with her album,

"Midnights," when she won her fourth Album of the Year, making her the first female solo artist to do so. She also was awarded Best Pop Vocal Album. Swift ties this unique position with mega talents such as Frank Sinatra, Stevie Wonder, and Paul Simon.

The Grammys are constantly evolving and adapting to the shifting cultural landscape in music and creative performance. In many ways, the Grammys are a barometer of cultural change and a vehicle for introducing innovative music selections. The awards ceremony is adapting its format and allowing itself to be shaped by dynamic shifts in the music industry (McClatchy, 2010). The 2024 show was particularly upbeat and entertaining with high moments of praise for everyone, but also included acceptance speeches that tested boundaries in terms of subject matter, such as Jay-Z's acceptance speech for the Dr. Dre Global Impact Award. The Grammys have proven over time to be groundbreaking because it has expanded the standard categories for award recipients and recognized contributions in the music genre and



SZA WINS GRAMMY FOR BEST R&B SONG

industry that should be celebrated. Despite controversy and allegations of racial bias, the Grammys remain the most progressive venue for recognizing a diverse range of contributors and their unique achievements. From classic performers such as Beyoncé to former presidents and comedy performers, the Grammys has lifted the veil on music awards and given the audience a valuable glimpse that allows everyone to share in musical success.

Chiefs take home fourth Super Bowl win

By SANDRA ABRANTES

On Sunday, February 11, 2024, the San Francisco 49ers and Kansas City Chiefs played against each other in Super Bowl LVIII, held in Las Vegas, Nevada. After the pre-game festivities, the coin toss fell heads, and the Kansas City Chiefs deferred the ball to the San Francisco 49ers. The kickoff was right to left, and the 49ers kicker Jake Moody (#4) started the game off strong for the 49ers, gaining them a yard advantage. Going into the 58th Superbowl, the Chiefs proved to have a strong defense, but in the first quarter, the 49ers demonstrated their equally strong offense and defense. So much so that the first quarter scores remained 0-0 until the second, when the 49ers kicked a field goal gaining 3 points at the 55 yard line, scoring the first points of the game. After this, the 49ers intercepted the ball and gained possession, allowing them to make the first touchdown of the game. With 4 minutes and 23 seconds left in the second quarter, #23 Christian McCaffre brought the 49ers score to 10-0, until the Chiefs won a kick, making 3 points on the board with 20

seconds left in the second quarter. After Usher's halftime performance, San Francisco earned the first interception for the second half and at the 57 yard line, the Chiefs scored another field goal, bringing the score to 10-6 with 5 minutes left in the third quarter, San Francisco still in the lead. Then, with 2 and a half minutes left of the third quarter, the Chiefs won a touchdown raising the score to 13-10 in the Chiefs favor with their added field goal point. From there, the 49ers got a touchdown and the Chiefs made a field goal, which increased the score to a tied 16-16. Two minutes were added to the fourth quarter, and within seven seconds, the 49ers gained three points from a field kick, bringing the scores out of a tie to 19-16 with San Francisco in the lead. The 49ers continued to prove their defense was strong, but in the last 16 seconds of the added time, the Chiefs proved they were an able opponent. The tight end for the Chiefs, #87 Travis Kelce, brought the ball to the 10 yard line, and in a last-minute decision, the Chiefs put #7 Harrison Butker in the game who tied the score once more from a skillful kick with 3 seconds



|| MVP PATRICK MAHOMES CELEBRATES ANOTHER SUPER BOWL WIN

remaining on the clock. Consequently, overtime ensued with slight rule changes: another 15 minutes added to the clock along with an additional 3 timeouts per team and both sides being given the opportunity to possess the ball. San Francisco won the second coin toss and they had first possession of overtime. With 7:22 left on the clock, the 49ers kicked a field goal and raised their score to 22-19, taking the lead in the win.

It seemed they would be the winners of Superbowl 58, but despite all odds, in the last 3 seconds of overtime, Chiefs Quarterback Patrick Mahomes planned a phenomenal play. Mahomes threw the ball to #12 wide receiver Mecole Hardman, who was wide open in the end zone, scoring a touchdown resulting in an end score of 25-22 and an impressive 4th Super bowl win for the Kansas City Chiefs.

'Oppenheimer' wins big at 2024 Oscars

By: SAHAANA SINGHAL

The 96th Academy Awards officially wrapped up yet another busy awards season. From Ryan Gosling performing "I'm Just Ken" to Emma Stone accepting an award with a broken dress, the night was far from boring.

"Oppenheimer" took over the stage, bagging a whopping seven wins out of thirteen nominations, while "Barbie" hit severely under the expectations, taking home only one win out of eight nominations.

Jimmy Kimmel reappeared as the host for the fourth time, exciting the audience right from the start. From the moment he delivered his opening monologue, he showed why he was a recurring favorite. He poked fun at Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling, along with the audience who allegedly did not vote for them, and created lighthearted humor by add-

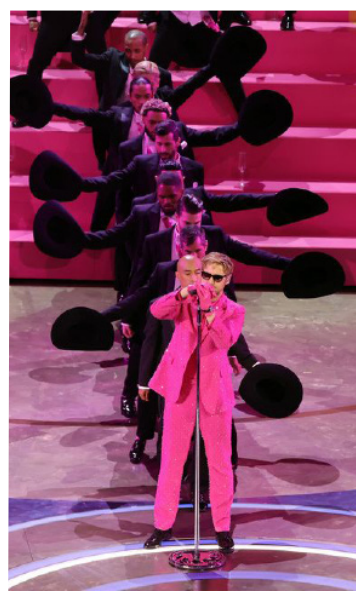
ing some political jokes into his speech. Even while doing that, he made sure to highlight the tough times the industry faced, with the Writers Guild of America and Screen Actors Guild strikes that took place. Alongside that, he got the true stars, the behind-the-scenes workers, a well deserved standing ovation.

The night was nothing short of spectacular. Vanessa Hudgens opened the Red Carpet by debuting her baby bump, officially announcing her pregnancy. Gosling performed a wonderful rendition of "I'm Just Ken" and Guns N' Roses guitarist, Slash, made a surprise appearance on stage with him. Emma Stone accepted her award for Best Actress for her role as Bella Baxter in "Poor Things" right after breaking the zipper on her dress as she was visibly panicked.

Da'Vine Joy Randolph gave

a moving and emotional speech after she won Best Supporting Actress for "The Holdovers," and after waiting three decades, Robert Downey Jr. received his first Oscar for Best Supporting Role in "Oppenheimer" while Bradley Cooper failed to win, yet another time. Like Gosling, Billie Eilish performed her original song made for the "Barbie" picture, "What Was I Made For?" stunning the audience. Afterwards, she took home the only Oscar the movie received. Though, the cherry on top was the guest appearance from "Anatomy of a Fall" star, canine Messi, who was pictured sitting with the audience and clapping along for winners.

All of the movies were recognized as contributing to a stellar filmmaking season and many fans enjoyed the tributes to their favorite films. There is much to look forward to with next year's films.



|| RYAN GOSLING DOES A STELLAR PERFORMANCE OF "I'M JUST KEN" AT 2024 OSCARS

'SPRINGING' INTO

THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING IS KNOWN AS THE VERNAL EQUINOX. IN LATIN, THE WORD VERNAL MEANS "SPRING" AND EQUINOX MEANS "EQUAL NIGHT."

IN LITERARY WORKS, SPRING IS OFTEN USED TO REPRESENT BIRTH, A REVIVAL, AND THE START OF HAPPY AND BETTER TIMES.

THE CUSTOM OF BEING VISITED BY THE EASTER BUNNY BEGAN IN THE 1700S AND STEMS FROM GERMAN TRADITIONS.



SOME FUN FACTS!

ALTHOUGH BABY BIRDS ARE BORN WITH THE ABILITY TO SING, THEY USUALLY DON'T LEARN HOW TO UNTIL SPRING, WHEN THEY HEAR OTHER BIRDS CHIRPING WHILE LOOKING FOR A MATE.



BABIES BORN DURING THE SPRING SEASON ARE MORE PRONE TO BECOMING SICK.

Earthquake ravages Japan

BY: AMELIA YEUN

On January 1, family and friends scurried to make their Hatsumode, the first shrine visit of the New Year to wish for a healthy and prosperous year. Unfortunately for Honshu, Japan, their first day of 2024 did not go accordingly. It was at 4:10 p.m. (Japan Standard Time) when the Noto Peninsula on the west coast of Honshu began to violently shake for roughly fifty seconds. The damage that came was truly cataclysmic.

Japan often experiences earthquakes. About 1,500 earthquakes every year, with an average magnitude of 7.0. The U.S. Geological Survey measured a 7.5 magnitude mainshock, followed by several aftershocks that stretched to the next day. The earthquake also caused a tsunami that reached three feet, which led the The Japanese Meteorological Agency to issue a tsunami warning, the first since a similar incident that occurred in 2011. This was the strongest earthquake to hit Ishikawa Prefecture since 1885 and mainland Japan since the 2011 Tohoku earthquake.

The damage was felt across much of Honshu, including Tokyo, located about three hundred kilometers southeast of the epicenter. The most intense shaking was felt in Suzu, Noto, Wajima, and Anamizu, close to the epicenter, where several chains of fire began to spread and attach to buildings. The subsequent heavy snowfall made emergency response efforts difficult and slow.

Over 470,000 people had to evacuate their homes. Many survivors are still living in evacuation shelters seven weeks after the initial earthquake. Scientists, utilizing satellite data, tracked the significant ground displacement caused by the earthquake, with some areas on the north coast of the Noto Peninsula moving upward as much as 4 meters. The Advanced Rapid Imaging and Analysis team at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the California Institute of Technology's Seismological Laboratory used synthetic aperture radar data to measure this displacement, revealing uplift along eighty-five kilometers of coastline and significant coastal shifts, including at Minazuki Bay where the coastline moved roughly



RESCUE TEAMS HELPING CLEAN UP THE WRECK LEFT BEHIND BY THE EARTHQUAKE

200 meters seaward.

This earthquake was one of the most devastating events that Japan has seen in a while. The survivors feeling the effects are trying to recover and rebuild their community with what resources they get. The CDP Global Recovery Fund is allowing people to donate to help the cause. Rescue teams have been working to the best of their ability

to clean up the mess and help the displaced refugees. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida expressed his sympathies for all those affected. With over 6,000 injuries, 20,000 deaths, and 470,000 people evacuated from their homes, this was one of the most devastating events that the country has faced in a long time. Despite the lack of resources and poor weather situations, the nation continues to heal.

Harvard president resigns amid scandal

BY: LIAM LUGAY

Claudine Gay has resigned as Harvard President after only holding the position for six months. This was the shortest tenure that a President at Harvard has ever held. Gay's time as President of the Ivy League university came with its controversies, including allegations of plagiarism and

antisemitism at Harvard University.

Harvard University came under investigation in the wake of the Hamas attack on Israel, questioning how the school was handling antisemitism on campus. Gay was criticized for not addressing the pro-Palestine statement that many students supported. Gay testified before Congress along with presidents of

other universities, such as Liz Magill of the University of Pennsylvania. The hearing was held in order to discuss how universities were handling situations of antisemitism in their respective organizations. Gay stated that she supports the freedom of speech within Harvard University, but does not condone the harassment of others based on said speech. Gay later elaborated on these claims, stating that any violence against the Jewish students at Harvard University would not be tolerated. As a result of the testimony, Magill resigned from her position as well.

The other major controversy that came with Gay's presidency was plagiarism. When The Washington Free Beacon came forward with accusations of plagiarism in her published works, a review was done on Gay's published works. When only a small amount of inadequate citations were revealed in the then-president's work, Gay requested that corrections be made to the work to ensure proper citations. The Washington Free Beacon continued to push the narrative of Gay's plagiarism, interviewing

many people whose work had been claimed to be stolen. The interviewees responded by saying there was nothing that they considered to be plagiarism present in Gay's work.

Due to Gay's resignation, Alan Garber has taken the role of interim president at Harvard University. The job that Garber is undertaking will be a difficult one, as he has to guide the university through one of its most trying periods. Garber will also address the Israel and Gaza situation that the Harvard community continues to debate after the resignation of Gay.

Despite all of the controversies, Gay continues to work as a professor at Harvard University. Some students stand by Gay and want to combat external forces they feel are working against Harvard. Other students believe it is time for a new president to take Gay's place and repair the university's image, something Garber promises to deliver on. The future of Harvard's image is unknown as of now, but this will surely be a topic discussed for months to come.



CLAUDINE GAY TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

War rages on with no end in sight

BY: DESTINY RODRIGUEZ

Past the olive gardens and mosques, there is a war that news articles, television, and social media continue to feed the world, but what does it all mean? The Israel-Hamas conflict is a recurring tale that has been told time and time again throughout history; a fight for land at the expense of lives.

On October 7, 2023, a militant group that has had authority over the Gaza Strip since 2007, also known as Hamas, launched a groundbreaking attack on Israel. Their border fence was bulldozed in multiple places, causing Israel's security to be caught off guard and overwhelmed. What was just supposed to be a highly organized stealth assault ended up becoming a deadly rampage through civilian areas. According to the Gaza Health Ministry, at least 1,200 lives were lost during this strike. On the same day of the attack, Israel declared war on Hamas.

As the war has progressed, the

Gaza Health Ministry states that they can no longer provide an official death toll due to the intensity of the fighting. This ongoing conflict has many wondering why. The roots of this war predate the establishment of the state of Israel, the world's only Jewish state, seventy-five years ago and the founding of Hamas in 1987. Both Palestinian Jews and Israeli Arabs want the same land and dictate how it's controlled, however, a compromise has been difficult to find.

Although compromising the land seems like a simple enough idea, it has been proven difficult; the internationally supported political solution to this conflict is a "two-state solution". This would form Palestine as an independent state in Gaza and most of the West Bank, leaving whatever is left to Israel. This resolution has been previously endorsed by both sides, but they were unable to make it work in practice. The alternative, although a solution that is less likely to happen, is what is called a "one-state solution" which consists of the land being either

one big Israel, one big Palestine, or a shared state with a new name. In recent news, President Joe Biden has stated that he hopes a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas will take place. This would allow for any remaining hostages to be released and would prevent any more casualties from occurring.

A cease-fire would not only allow for hostilities to be paused, but it would also allow for hundreds of trucks to deliver desperately needed aid in Gaza. Both Palestinians and Israelis have been suffering due to a shortage of supplies. Now, the war has made the problem much more ur-

gent. Donations to AFSC (American Friends Service Committee) and to Save The Children have been made to bring humanitarian relief.

The Israel-Hamas war remains a sobering reminder of the challenges that will have to be endured until this world can reach a place of peace, love, and stability. Ripple effects of this war are still being felt throughout the world with many people giving their conflicting takes on the subject matter. One thing becomes abundantly clear with tragedies like these, peace is always something that should be strived for among all peoples of the world.



PROTESTERS DEMANDING FOR A CALL TO A CEASEFIRE IN THE MIDDLE EAST (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

THE RESOLUTION OF A CENTURIES OLD MYSTERY?

BY: GRACE MANDY

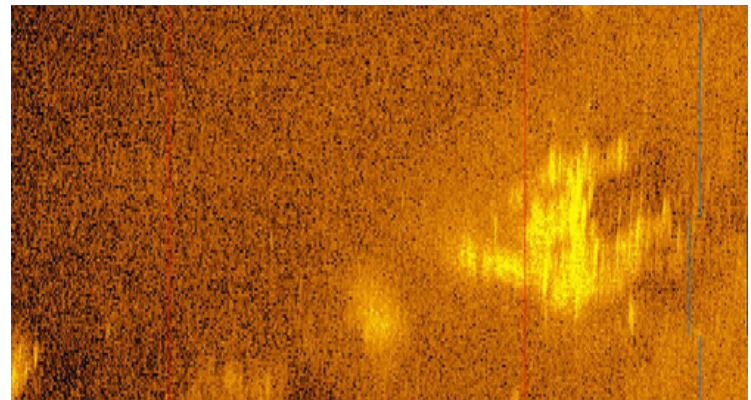
In late January of 2024, sonar images were taken of a plane at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean that is suspected to be Amelia Earhart's famous lost plane. Earhart was the first female Aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, but she, her navigator Fred Noonan, and her Lockheed 10-E Electra aircraft were lost somewhere in the Pacific Ocean in her attempt to circumnavigate the globe in 1937. The mystery has remained unsolved for decades, with countless theories emerging over the years. Now in 2024, 87 years later, the underwater exploration company Deep Sea Vision may have solved it.

Deep Sea Vision's director Tony Romeo led a 90-day expedition in the Pacific Ocean in search of the plane. Using advanced underwater drone technology, they surveyed about 52,000 square miles of the ocean floor. The team eventually spotted a plane-shaped object 16,000 feet underwater between Hawaii and Australia, about 100 miles off of the Island where Earhart was sup-

posed to refuel. The images clearly show the shape of a small aircraft. The shape of the plane matches the length and width of Earhart's aircraft as well as the shape of the tail. With the evidence combined, the team is convinced the object is a plane, one that could very well be Earhart's. The scan itself is very blurry, so the possibility of this being another lost aircraft or sunken vessel is not off of the table.

Many theories have emerged surrounding Earhart and Noonan's disappearance. Some have thought that they crash landed on an island and were taken by Japanese forces in the area, or starved to death and were eaten by coconut crabs. But the plane being found at the bottom of the ocean, specifically close to the island Earhart was meant to refuel at, supports the theory that the plane ran out of fuel and crashed into the ocean. This most recent discovery seems to shut down the idea of the plane having landed or crashed on land.

Deep Sea Vision plans to make another expedition to the Pacific Ocean to get more footage of the



THE UNDERWATER SCAN SUPPOSEDLY SHOWING EARHART'S AIRCRAFT

supposed plane. If there is more evidence found that aircraft is Earhart's, the company intends to make efforts to recover the plane from the ocean floor and bring it to the surface. When all is done, only then can the expedition say that this is for sure Earhart's aircraft.

The Earhart plane mystery was one of the longest lasting unsolved cases of the twentieth century. It has been discussed for many generations, coming up with theories that

range from plausible to fantastical. Though many theories have been conjured up by so many people over the years, this may be the most concrete evidence ever discovered of Earhart's whereabouts. The expedition team cannot say for sure whether or not this is Earhart's aircraft, but many are willing to consider this to be the plane that has been missing for nearly one hundred years. Could this expedition finally resolve this cold case?

Everybody Cut Footloose!



THE KIDS AND THE ADULTS JOIN TOGETHER AT THE END OF THE SHOW TO CELEBRATE AND DANCE AS ONE COMMUNITY DURING THE FINALE.

BY: ELIZABETH BERA

On March 15th, the St. Thomas Aquinas Drama Department opened its spring production of *Footloose!* Audiences joined them as they danced their way through a not-so-typical time in Bomont. The cast enjoyed preparing for two weekends of performances, including multiple sold-out shows!

The story follows Chicago teen Ren McCormack (Senior, Michael Corradino) as he moves to the cowboy boot-wearing “hick”-town that is Bomont, a place where any and all dancing is illegal. He starts by attending Sunday Church with his mom, Ethel McCormack (Senior, Gabriella Morelli) in the new town, and immediately struggles to fit in. He bumps into the preacher’s daughter, Ariel, (Senior, Jasmine Torres) a rebellious teen with red cowboy boots, who is dangerously in love with the rugged Chuck Cranston (Senior, Zach Diaz). No matter what he does, Ren can’t seem to find friends who understand him without mocking him, until he comes across Willard (Senior, Sean Lacko). This comedic cowboy gives him the friendship he

has been looking for as well as all the tips he needs on how to be a Bomont teen. But when he gets caught dancing in the school hallway, Ariel’s best friends tell him about the tragic event that forced Reverend Shaw Moore (Senior, Matthew Gluchowski), a strict father

Even though we are still only in rehearsals, I am having the time of my life playing Ariel. This show is now always going to hold a special place in my heart and I can't wait to share it with the STA community.
-Jasmine Torres '24

and husband, to ban dancing in Bomont. Rusty. (Senior, Viviana Rodriguez), Wendy Jo (Junior, Elizabeth Bera), and Urleen (Sophomore, Francesca Sosa-Dempsey) warn him to watch out because somebody’s eyes are watching his every move. As the show goes on, Shaw and his wife, Vi Moore (Senior, Amanda Ponik), struggle to see eye to eye and lose track of what it means to love.

Meanwhile, Ren is struggling to win his own fight, but he won’t back down! Will Ren be able to dance again? It’s up to him and the eager teens of Bomont to change the laws so they can live the lives they’ve always wanted to have.

The department is grateful to have shared such a riveting story full of sensational dance numbers and heartwarming songs with everyone who came together to cut footloose!



TOP LEFT: WILLARD AND HIS BOYS EXPLAIN WHAT HIS ‘MAMA SAYS.’
TOP RIGHT: ARIEL AND REN FEEL LIKE THEIR LOVE IS ‘ALMOST PARADISE.’
MIDDLE: ARIEL AND HER FRIENDS DREAM ABOUT FINDING A ‘HERO.’
BOTTOM: WILLARD AND RUSY CELEBRATE WILLARD LEARNING TO DANCE WITH THE REST OF THE BAR CROWD.

Sports Spotlight

Name: Gianna Chuffo



Nickname(s): G

Grade: 11

Sport: Basketball

Favorite Gatorade flavor: lemon lime

Favorite pump-up song: "Statement" by G Herbo

Name: Madison Brew



Nickname(s): Maddie, Poodle

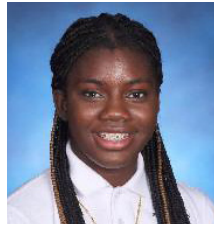
Grade: 11

Sport: wrestling

Favorite Gatorade flavor: i don't do gatorade

Favorite pump-up song: "Blind" by Korn

Name: Sanyah Queen



Nickname(s): Queen

Grade: 11th

Sport: Wrestling

Favorite Gatorade flavor: prefer blue raspberry elecroyte drink

Favorite pump-up song: "Run this town" by Rihanna

Name: Charlie Joyce



Nickname(s): Chuck

Grade: 11

Sport: Soccer

Favorite Gatorade flavor: Yellow

Favorite pump-up song: Any Babytron Song

Name: Jack Valenzuela



Nickname(s): JV

Grade: Junior

Sport: Baseball

Favorite Gatorade flavor: Red

Favorite pump-up song: "Wants and needs" by Drake

Name: Gabriella Politi



Nickname(s): Gabby

Grade: 11th

Sport: Track and field

Favorite Gatorade flavor: Blue

Favorite pump-up song: "Behind Bars" by Drake

Name: Reed Kerstetter



Nickname(s): Reedage

Grade: 11

Sport: Wrestling

Favorite Gatorade flavor: Blue

Favorite pump-up song: "March Madness" by Future

Name: Roman Blanks



**Nickname(s): Rome
Grade: 11th**

Sport: Football

Favorite Gatorade flavor: Lime Cucumber

Favorite pump-up song: "Sherry" by Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons

Name: Kaitlin Hall



Nickname(s): Kait

Grade: 11

Sport: Swimming,

Favorite Gatorade flavor: Blue

Favorite pump-up song: "Jimmy Cooks" by Drake

CHEERLEADERS COMPETE AND REPEAT



THE TEAM SHARES A MOMENT AFTER THE COMPETITION (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF STA PUBLICATIONS)

BY: ASHLEY WALL

As another winter competition season comes to an end, the cheerleading team has many hard earned accomplishments and victories to be proud of. The girls consistently worked hard on and off the mat, ready to prove themselves.

For the first time in years, the program consisted of two separate competitive teams: Game Day and All Music, with both teams competing in multiple competitions all over the state. The Game Day team had a fun routine that was full of energy, excitement and smiles. After placing

4th in the GMC this past October, the girls were eager to get back on the mat, and debut their updated routine. The team opened their season strong, placing second at the West Milford competition on November 17th, 2023. Building off of this, the girls took home the 1st place trophy at the Edison Cheer Classic competition on January 14th. The Game Day team concluded their season performing at States on February 25th at Brookdale Community College. After competing against the very best teams in New Jersey, the girls placed 4th overall in the state in the Game Day division.

Along with the Game Day team, the All Music Competition team worked hard on their routine, which consisted of exciting new stunts, tumbling, jumps, and a fun, high energy dance. The girls took the mat for the first time in years at the Edison Cheer Classic competition on January 14th, where they proudly placed 1st. The team also took home 1st place at the Saint John Vianney Cheer Competition on February 11th. After numerous competitions, the team took the mat for the final time at states on February

24th at Brookdale Community College. Competing against multiple other teams, the girls took home 5th overall in the state in the medium All Music Division. Overall, both teams worked extremely hard, in both their sideline and competitive seasons.

The team was led by head coach Charlotte Caporrino ('13), and assistant coach Julia Fedor ('17). Caporrino ('13) expressed her thoughts about the team and overall season: "Despite all the wins and losses, each girl exhibited what it means to be a good teammate and athlete and I am more than proud of each and every one of them. After every win, they were determined to build off their success, and after every loss, they kept their heads held high and kept pushing. I cannot wait to see what next season brings for the program!"

Along with the coaches, captains Ava Edge ('24) and Tabitha Appolon ('25) encouraged the girls to keep pushing through the ups and downs of the season. Appolon ('25) shared her thoughts about this past season: "Our team went through a long and hard season, but I think that the tough times brought us together, and

made us so much closer. We won and lost together, but we worked hard through it all, and did all we could for states. Those returning can't wait to accomplish even more than we did this year."

"Our team went through a long and hard season, but I think that the tough times brought us together, and made us so much closer. We won and lost together, but we worked hard through it all, and did all we could for states. Those returning can't wait to accomplish even more than we did this year."

- Tabitha Appolon

As the competition season closes, the girls are looking forward to building off their success for next year.

Defeating rivals



SENIOR DAVON GRANT STRIVES FOR A WINNING SHOT.

BY: WILLIAM OWENS

After a well fought season, the boys varsity basketball team is able to rest easy with the knowledge that they put their best foot forward toward a common goal.

The largest deficit that this team won this season was against South Brunswick, where the boys took home the win, beating out the other team by 42 points, in a 83-41 game. However, the most captivating game of the season was against Saint Jo-

seph High School. They were finally able to secure a victory with the GMC Tournament Semifinal Round, ending in a nail-biting victory of 56-51, with Rinelson Dilone ('24) showing up where it counts with 21 points and 18 rebounds double double, scoring and glass cleaning simultaneously.

None of this would have been possible without the guidance of the seniors on the team: captain Davon Grant ('24), Dilone ('24), Paris Papadatos ('24), Rion Ahmetaj ('24), and Zacai Manigo ('24). Head coach and vice principal, Robert Turco, who has led the boys basketball program for a few seasons, has demonstrated his coaching abilities, He brings a presence of educated coaching ability to the program that will always be an absolute necessity.

As these promising young stars continue their basketball career further, it is certain that their grit and hard-working natures will certainly act as a guide and an important tool, as it has throughout their careers thus far.

Girls clench division title



JUNIOR GIANNA CHUFFO DRIBBLES AROUND HER OPPONENT.

BY: WILLIAM OWENS

"We all contributed to our successful season this year. The hard work and dedication allowed us to come together on and off the court." A quote by Adriana Summersett ('25) demonstrated how these girls felt about the incredible season.

This team went 22-8 overall and 13-0 in their GMC Red division, showing a 73% win percentage for the season. This inspiring group went on to secure many GMC titles

in a row.

Led by team captains Gianna Chuffo ('25) and Summersett ('25), this team was guided in a positive direction. The largest point gap that the girls won by was a 90-30 game against North Brunswick, where they won by 60 points, and Chuffo ('25) scored 27 points. Ending the road for this persevering group of girls was against Our Lady of Mercy in the Non-Public A bracket of the state quarterfinals. They fought a brave battle but lost 64-71, only 8 points away from being able to move onto the next round of the state championship. The talent among these young prospects was simply unmatched.

Although these ambitious players demonstrated their own personal ability, they would not have seen the lengths of their potential without their coach, Tim Corrigan. He has more than proven his ability to lead a roster of determined players.

In upcoming seasons, these young women will more than certainly show their fighting spirits in search of future victories.

‘Freestyle’ to first



SENIOR NATALIE NENO LEADS THE TEAM WITH HER IMPRESSIVE DIVE.

BY: NICOLE CASAS

This season was a time for many great successes for the swim team. Each swimmer on the team excelled at what they had to do. This is thanks to coach Amanda Cleveland-Miller’s hard work and dedication to building a strong swim team.

Captains Natalie Neno (‘24), Kait Hall (‘25), and Hailey Zeszotarski (‘25) had an exceptional season and are looking forward to the next. The swim team’s goal a couple of months ago was to make it to states, which they fortunately did fulfill. On December 20th, 2023, they competed in the 200 Yard Medley Relay. The

girls took first and third place. First place winners consisted of Neno (‘24), Hall (‘25), Samantha Villacis (‘26), and Gianna Socio (‘27) with a time of 1:58.65. Third place winners consisted of Caithlyn Caballero (‘24), Zeszotarski (‘25), Leahana Ortiz (‘26), and Emma Figueiredo (‘26), with a time of 2:12.31.

Hall (‘25) and Zeszotarski (‘25) took first and second places respectively in the 200 Yard Freestyle Race. Neno (‘24) took first and Figueiredo (‘26) took first and fourth in the 200 Yard Individual Medley. Villacis (‘26) took first and Figueiredo (‘26) took third for the 100 Yard Fly. Hall (‘25) won first and Zeszotarski (‘25) took second in the 500 Yard Freestyle Race. Villacis (‘26) broke the 100 Yard Fly and 100 Yard Backstroke Record.

Coach Amanda Cleveland-Miller refers to these diligent women as “The Mighty Minnows” of the school. She quoted: “They were able to flex their strength in the GMC Championship that requires only 16 to fill events. The girls finished in 2nd and it was an exceptionally proud moment to see the small group of 12 celebrating their achievement next to the Goliaths of the GMC.”

Staying in the ‘winning’ lane



SOPHOMORE KIMBERLY CHIN APPLIES EXCELLENT TECHNIQUE TO GET A STRIKE.

BY: SANDRA ABRANTES

After a groundbreaking season last year, the girls and boys bowling teams have done it once again!

With a record of 9-9, the girls team proved their dedication to the sport. Captain Victoria Aldridge (‘24) and co-captain Kimberly Chin (‘26) made it to All Conference. Both girls made it to GMC Individuals, with Aldridge (‘24) placing in 2nd and

Chin (‘26) in 9th. They continued to strive in the State Individual Tournament, with Aldridge (‘24) in 25th, and Chin (‘26) in 101st. Members of the team guided by the captains are Isabella Ebner (‘26), Nell Kudirka (‘26), Katerina Xon (‘26), and Sophia De Vera (‘27). They had a very impressive run this year, winning State Sectional North 2G1, and their division

Despite only having a small team, the boys bowling team had an equally impressive year. With guidance from coaches Richard Maddock and Chris Wilton (‘16), as well as captains Anthony Campora (‘24) and Matthew Gluchowski (‘24), the boys were able to raise their average scores and play their best! The players’ high series games proved that hard work can achieve goals. Campora (‘24) surpassed a goal with 265 pins at the Ocean Lanes Individual Tournament. He shared: “We all accomplished our own personal goals and I can’t wait to see how the team grows on their own in the next winter season.”

Both teams have done a fantastic job in setting the bar for the following teams, and making history in their respective groups.

ANOTHER MATCH, ANOTHER WIN



JUNIOR JONATHAN HOWARTH TRIES TO MANEUVER TO GET THE UPPER HAND AGAINST HIS OPPONENT.

(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF STA PUBLICATIONS)

BY: ISABELLA DePASQUALE

The wrestling team had a successful season, working hard on and off the mats. Both teams were able to pull through with some big wins. Coach Nicholas Tonzola (‘88), along with coaches Vincent Gioffre and Gabriel Roman, worked intensely to prepare and train their wrestlers for the season.

Satisfied with his team, Tonzola (‘88) said: “We had a great year, with

great senior leadership. Our boys and girls program overachieved. We won division titles, many wrestlers were all division and all conference, both boys and girls.” Along with the coaches, both teams had captains that helped each wrestler become stronger. For the boys team, the captains were Beniamino DiCocco (‘24), Liam Zeh (‘25), and Reed Kerstetter (‘25). For the girls team, the captains were Sanyah Queen (‘25) and Makayla Decker (‘25).

Their first match was on Decem-

ber 5th, 2023 against Johnson High School. They were able to come out on top with a score of 54 to beat Johnson’s 24. Throughout their season they had some big victories, like their match against Colonia High School on January 23rd. Through a challenging back and forth, it pushed the team to do their best. In the end it was down to Caden Sternlieb (‘26), who was able to pin his opponent, securing the win. This is known to be one of their closest matches with the score being 42-33.

The boys team made state semifinals and were able to send five of their wrestlers to the state championship: Beniamino DiCocco (‘24), Nazareth Pina (‘24), Jahir Aguilar (‘25), Liam Zeh (‘25), and Nikolas Rivas (‘27). The boys were also able to go on and win the white division finishing their season 17-9.

The girls team, with many new wrestlers, worked fervently to grow their talents. They had several close matches, like their first one against North Brunswick High School on January 10th. They came through

with a victory as six of their wrestlers were able to collect points and pin their opponents, finishing with a score of 36-33. Later in the season, they attained another win against Howell High School on January 25th. The match concluded with the girls beating their contestant 45-24.

Two girls placed at states: Sanyah Queen (‘25) and Isabella Bonilla (‘27). Queen (‘25) was able to place 4th. Bonilla (‘27) was able to place 6th and become the first female freshman wrestler in school history to place at states. Bonilla (‘27) said: “I really love wrestling so much! I feel like I really accomplished a lot freshman year. I was the only freshman that went to states and I placed as a freshman and I think that’s just really crazy that I was able to go to Atlantic City as a freshman. I’m really excited and looking forward to the next three years. I’m ready to grow and learn a lot more so I can win a state title.”

The girls and boys wrestling team pushed themselves to make it a successful season, and they did just that.

AMELIA EARHART

A celebrated aviator and author, who was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in 1932. She has since disappeared from a flight around the world in 1937, but her accomplishments have not been forgotten. For more information, see page 11.

KAMALA HARRIS

The 49th vice president of the United States, and current vice president to President Biden. She is the first black woman to be elected as Vice President.

SOJOURNER TRUTH

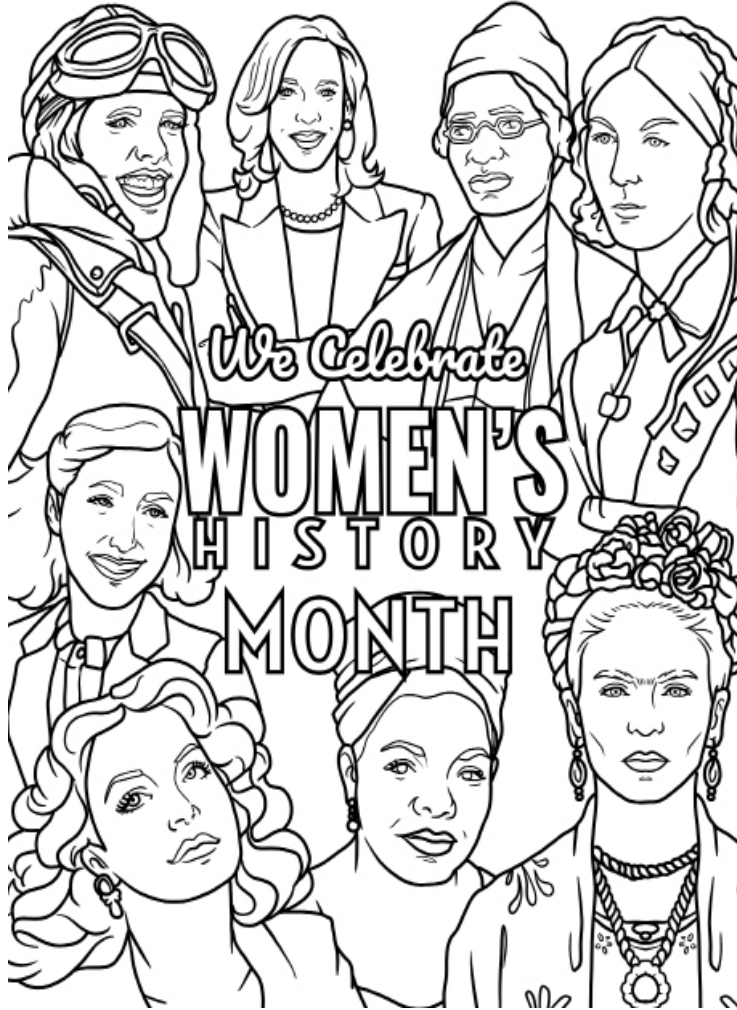
A formerly enslaved woman, she escaped with her infant daughter and became an advocate for abolition, women's rights, civil rights, and alcohol temperance.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

Known as "The Lady With the Lamp," she was a British Nurse who pioneered modern nursing with her experience in the Crimean War. She especially campaigned for improved sanitary conditions across healthcare.

ANNE FRANK

Historically remembered for her diary, which she wrote during her and her family's time in hiding from the Nazis in World War II. Her personal experiences and fear detailed in her writing drove her father Otto Frank to publish her diary, and share their family's story as victims of the Holocaust.



ARTWORK COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

FRIDA KAHLO

A Mexican painter who is known for expressing herself through surrealism and conveying her hardships through vivid imagery. Most famous for her self-portraits, she depicted tragedy and death in many of them and visually displayed her feelings on the tragedies she faced.

HEDY LAMARR

Best known as a golden-age Hollywood actress, her genius was often ignored in favor of her looks. She pioneered technology that would one day form the basis of Wi-Fi and Bluetooth but didn't receive any appreciation for her innovations until much later in her life.

MAYA ANGELOU

An American poet, memoirist, activist, actress, and dancer best known for her autobiography *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. An incredibly multi-talented woman, she has won Grammy awards, has been nominated for a Tony, and has been awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

In Honor of National Women's History Month, several impactful and renowned women are pictured for you to color and be as creative as you like! For more information on these rightfully celebrated women, read the information boxes provided next to the images!